

Early Reading Policy

2026 - 2027

Approved by: Stacey Clark

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Early Reading & Phonics at Carleton Green

“Every child a reader, regardless of background, needs, or ability.”

Our Vision

At Carleton Green, the development of communication and language is our absolute priority. We believe that reading is the bedrock of all learning. Our goal is for every pupil to leave Year 2 as a confident, fluent reader with a lifelong love for books.

We achieve this through:

- **Direct & Explicit Teaching:** Reading is not left to chance; it is taught with intent.
- **The Power of Language:** A vocabulary-rich environment from Nursery onwards.
- **Passion:** Our teachers are reading role models who share stories with excitement and enthusiasm.

Our Core Approach

1. Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP)

We follow the **Red Rose Phonics** programme with absolute fidelity. Phonics begins in the very first week of Reception.

- **Keep Up, Not Catch Up:** We provide immediate, same-day intervention for any child who finds a sound or blend difficult.
- **Rigour:** We hold the highest expectations, aiming for 100% of pupils to pass the Phonics Screening Check.
- **Decodable Books:** The books children bring home are precisely matched to the sounds they have been taught in class.

2. A Language-Rich Environment

Reading comprehension starts with talk. We use the ShREC approach to ensure every interaction between staff and pupils is high-quality:

- **Share attention** with the child.
- **Rephrase and Extend** what the child says.
- **Explain** new vocabulary (Tier 2 and Tier 3 words).
- **Communicate** through back-and-forth conversation.

3. Stories, Songs, and Rhymes

Our curriculum is alive with rhythm.

- **The Daily Poem:** Every year group has a repertoire of poems and songs they learn "off by heart."
- **Storytime:** We don't just read a book once. We re-read high-quality texts until children know the characters, the language, and the "spark" of the story.

The Home-School Partnership

When you join Carleton Green, you join a community of readers. We ask all parents to participate in our reading system:

- **Three Times a Week:** The minimum expectation for reading with your child at home.
- **The Reading Diary:** A vital bridge between home and school for continuous dialogue.
- **Reading Meetings:** We hold workshops in the Autumn term to show you exactly how we teach phonics and how you can support at home.
- **Beyond Decoding:** We also send home "sharing books" (non-fiction and class favorites) for you to read to your child to build their vocabulary.

Monitoring Success

We track every child's journey closely to ensure no one is left behind:

- **The Bottom 20%:** Pupils who need the most support are listened to read **daily** by an adult in school.
- **Half-Termly Assessments:** We check phonics progress every six weeks to adjust teaching groups.
- **NELI:** We use the Nuffield Early Language Intervention to support children's speech and language development from entry.

Writing through Reading

We believe that "good readers make good writers."

- **Dictation:** Pupils practice spelling by writing sentences dictated by the teacher, allowing them to focus on beautiful handwriting and correct phonics.
- **Word Banks:** Classrooms display key vocabulary in **LARGE FONT** with visual aids to help children use ambitious words in their own writing.

“Reading is the core of all teaching at Carleton Green. It is the gift that unlocks the rest of the curriculum.”